

MOST CONTROVERSIAL DOCTRINES IN CHURCH AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM

1. Contention and Controversy

- a. Momma said do not talk about religion or politics. This list is why.
- b. Why talk about it? 1) Many are shocked that Christians disagree, 2) How to deal with it
- c. We all know there are doctrines on which Christians disagree – 1 Cor 1:10-11
- d. The church is supposed to speak the same mind, that happens by disputation – Ac 9:29
- e. If you struggle with one or more of these, bring it up, let's talk, let's grow together
- f. These are the most controversial/debated topics within the church

2. The Most Controversial Doctrines

- a. Baptism - The most options
- b. Communion/Lord's Supper - The most Roman Catholic
- c. Prayer - The most confusing – resolved
- d. Tongues – The most feigned
- e. Separation – The most divisive
- f. Faith/Works - The most scripturally supported (and most damning)
- g. Great commission – The most blindly accepted
- h. Election and Predestination (Calvinism) – The most philosophical
- i. God's intervention, miracles, spiritual gifts – The most superstitious
- j. Dispensationalism – The most maligned
- k. Tithing – The most fraudulent
- l. Sabbath – The most traditional
- m. God's Will – The most elusive
- n. Sin, Judgment, Hell – The most offensive
- o. Future events (end times, rapture) – The most speculated
- p. Holydays - The most practiced by the world
- q. Politics – The most popular / most Jewish
- r. Family, marriage, gender roles – The most politically incorrect
- s. Bible Versions – The most misunderstood
- t. Creation – The most scientifically researched
- u. Paul's Apostleship – The most ignored

3. More Controversies Not in the Church

- a. These are not in the headlines, b/c the church is not newsworthy
- b. Deity issues (most fundamental) – you can't be the church if you get this wrong
- c. Public controversies outside the church (see back)
- d. Do not let the culture, ignorant, unsaved, or weak frame the debate
- e. We lost the culture war when we traded the Bible for relevance, scholarship, politics

4. What This Means

- a. Does not mean God is less true, Bible cannot be understood, church is wrong
- b. Controversy exists, not always over minor doctrines, we must be engaged, not ignorant
- c. To stand for truth (1 Tim 2:4, 3:15, Eph 4:15) get comfortable with contention
- d. Good news: It is not hard. Stick with Rom 3:4, 1 Cor 2:2, 2 Tim 3:16-17
- e. Controversy can be resolved, people can learn / grow, the Bible can be rightly divided
- f. We should not expect everyone to be on the same page before the Lord returns
- g. There will always be divisions, weak, opportunists, frauds, but this is normal – 2Ti 3:13
- h. Our job in the church is to communicate, educate, equip with truth - 1 Tim 2:4

Most controversial issues in public culture:

The best way to deal with the cultural controversies is to first resolve basic controversies in the church regarding salvation, the Bible, the nature of Christ, God's intervention, marriage roles, God's will, and the pattern for the church.

1. Bathrooms, Gender identity
2. Marriage - Homosexuality
3. Abortion
4. Islam and Immigration
5. Merry Christmas
6. Healthcare and contraception
7. Religious displays
8. Prayer in schools (graduations and football games)
9. Separation of church and State
10. Creation and evolution
11. God's existence
12. The exclusive nature of Christianity
13. Evangelism
14. Jesus Christ

Redeem the world's culture and you have wasted your time.

Redeem the time for the Lord, and your culture will change. (Ephesians 5:16)